

— SAIL made efforts to increase exports and succeeded in exporting 4,89,000 tonnes of Mild Steel and 25,000 tonnes of Special Steel during 1996-97. SAIL is trying to export a higher tonnage during 1997-98.

The steps taken by RINL to reduce the inventory include efforts to improve sales, emphasis on export keeping in view the domestic market conditions, etc.

Flight from Calicut, Mangalore to Delhi

6272. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to start flights from Calicut and Mangalore to Delhi to cater to the greder demands from the people of Malabar region in Kerala; and

(b) the time by which flights are likely to be operated?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Due to capacity constraints, Indian Airlines has at present no plans to start flights from Calicut and Mangalore to Delhi. Private operators are, however, being encouraged to add more stations to their networks.

Electrification of Delhi-Amritsar Rail Route

6273. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a proposal to fully electrify the Railway line between Delhi and Amritsar;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) the major constraints of slow progress in the implementation of the scheme; and

(d) the steps are being taken to ensure its early completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir. There was no proposal to electrify Delhi-Amritsar railway line. However, Delhi-Ambala-Ludhiana section which is on Delhi-Amritsar route has already been electrified.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Modernisation and Development of Railway Workshops

6274. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise and develop the Railway workshops that comes under South Central Railway;

(b) if so, the details of those workshops and developmental schemes thereto and the amount earmarked for these schemes;

(c) whether necessary budgetary provisions have been made for the purpose;

(d) if so, the time by which the development and modernisation work is likely to be completed;

(e) whether the modernisation and development of these workshops are likely to be generated any employment; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c):

(Rs. in crores)			
Workshop	Modernisation/Development Schemes	Anticipated Cost	Outlay 1997-98
Hubli	(i) Conversion of workshop to BG for POH of carriages.	14.38	0.78
	(ii) Additional facilities to cater for carriage POH activities.	6.47	0.20
	(iii) Setting up of wagon manufacturing facilities.	15.00	0.50
Guntupalli	(i) Wagon workshop-Development facilities for maintenance of high capacity draft gear.	2.25	0.01

(d) These works are likely to be completed during IX. Plan.

(e) No, Sir. The facilities are planned to be manned by redeployment of existing staff.

(f) Does not arise.

Air India's Flights

6275. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) number and names of those countries where Air India's flights operate;

(b) out of those flights, the number of flights being operated from Calcutta;

(c) whether the Government propose to operate or to touch Air India's flights to Calcutta while operating the flights to Europe and other countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Air India is presently operating its services to U.A.E., Bahrain, Thailand, U.S.A. Tanzania, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Germany, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Kuwait, U.K., U.S.S.R., Sultanate of Oman, Kenya, Japan, France, Italy, Singapore, Israel and Canada.

(b) Air India operates direct flights from Calcutta to Thailand and Japan.

(c) to (e) Air India provides connections over Mumbai for passengers from Calcutta to U.A.E., Bahrain, Thailand, U.S.A. Tanzania, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, U.K., Italy, Israel, Japan and Switzerland.

Mining in Gujarat

6276. SHRI N.J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the places where mining works have been undertaken in Gujarat, specially in tribal and backward areas during the last three years, till date;

(b) the details of the achievements;

(c) whether technical assistance has been sought or proposed to be sought from some foreign institutions in the mining work in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the foreign companies have been sought for in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Recommendation of Secretaries Panel of Media

6277. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a committee of secretaries recommended that media cross holdings be allowed between broadcast and newspaper companies as mentioned in the Business Standard dated February 22, 1997;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to the observations made therein and facts of the matter;

(c) whether final decision has been taken on the recommendations of the Secretaries Panel; and

(d) the present status of the recommendations made by the panel and the time by which the Government are likely to take a final view in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) Government intends to introduce a Broadcasting Bill in the current session of Parliament which, inter-alia, will address the issue of cross media holdings.

Procurement of MARR System

6278. SHRI K.P. NAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 6000 pieces of MARR system are being procured;

(b) whether suitability of the system for the country

has been examined; and

(c) the performance of the existing rural telephone network especially in Vizianagram in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The following quantities are being procured for 1997-98:-

2/15 UHF MARR System 1928 nos.

4/36 UHF MARR System 1492 nos.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The performance of the rural telephone network in Vizianagram in Andhra Pradesh is satisfactory. All the rural exchange of Vizianagram are electronic and linked with group dialling. The fault rate of rural networks is around 11 per cent.

Change in Name of Railway Station

6279. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received some suggestions to change the name of Divanapur railway station (North East Railways) to "Sukhram Dham"; and

(b) if so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Signalling Project

6280. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Iran has signed a contract for \$ 25 million Ahwaj Bandar E. Imam Signalling project recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time fixed for completion of the project;

(d) the mode of payment adopted for the project; and

(e) the details of projects completed by the Indian Railways in Iran so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. Subsequently, section has been changed to Shahrud-Mashad Section.

(b) The work involves providing Advanced Signalling System like Centralised Traffic Control, Relay Interlocking, Wheel Detectors, Hot-Box Detectors etc. The work basically consists of — supply of materials and supervision of installations.